

## 2.15 Site Re-locations, YTA

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The cultural resources program of the United States Army Garrison, Alaska (USAG-AK) has attempted to re-locate three sites located adjacent to the road system in the Yukon Training Area (Figure 27). Attempts were made to re-locate these sites (XBD-00093, XBD-00103 and XBD-00104) in order to monitor their current condition and to determine any future actions needed to protect or mitigate the sites.

Attempts to re-locate the sites were unsuccessful, likely due to the loss of integrity of the sites since their initial discovery. Application of the Criteria for Evaluation of Historic Properties (36 CFR 60.4) indicates a finding of "Not Eligible" for each of the three sites, based on the findings outlined below.

### ***Site Relocation Efforts***

In June, July and August of 2005 attempts were made to re-locate three prehistoric archaeological sites located in the Yukon Training Area. These investigations were completed by a crew of four to five archaeologists employed by the Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands (CEMML, Colorado State University).

Site locations were arrived at using the site location and site description information presented on the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) card for each site. Typically, after arrival at the site location, sub-surface testing was conducted and the ground surface was investigated for artifacts. However, for some sites it was clear that the site location listed on the AHRS card was incorrect and no testing was done at the location (i.e. if located on a steep, hillside when the site description indicated the site was located on a hill top, etc.). Additionally, all locations in the immediate vicinity of the recorded site location that had the potential for containing sites were also investigated. CEMML has previously determined that much site location information recorded greater than 10 years ago is frequently inaccurate, through no fault of the previous investigators. Therefore, all potential site locations within several hundred meters of the recorded site locations and meeting the site description (i.e. "on the north side of Quarry Road") were also investigated. Shovel tests were approximately 40cm x 40cm, and were screened through ¼" hardware cloth.

### ***Results***

Pedestrian survey and subsurface testing were unsuccessful in re-locating sites XBD-00093, XBD-00103 and XBD-00104.

#### XBD-00093

Latitude:

Longitude: (NAD27)

Determination: Not Eligible

This site consists of one coarse grained beige chert flake found on the surface. The flake may have been a biface thinning flake (Holmes 1979: 14). UTM coordinates for this site are Zone 6, (WGS84)

### ***Findings***

This site was originally determined to be not eligible for the National Register on 7/25/84. CEMML archaeology crews attempted to re-locate this site in order to assess its current condition. Intensive subsurface testing and ground surface reconnaissance failed to

locate any additional artifacts anywhere in the vicinity of the AHRS card site location, including along Skyline Road and on a ridge top to just to the south. There is a great deal of disturbance along Skyline Road and at a firing point on the ridge top south of the AHRS site card location. This site may have been larger at one time, prior to the disturbance, or may have been an isolated find. The paucity of cultural material at site XBD-00093 indicates that this site does not contain additional information useful in understanding the prehistory of the area and is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.



Figure 24. Disturbed area in vicinity of XBD-00093

XBD-00103

Latitude:

Longitude: (NAD 27)

Determination: Not Eligible

This site consists of one coarse grained chert flake found on the disturbed surface of a hill top leveled by heavy machinery (Holmes 1979: 19). UTM coordinates for this site are Zone 6, (WGS84).



Figure 25. View from one area tested in attempts to relocate XBD-00103

*Findings*

This site was originally determined to be not eligible for the National Register on 7/25/84. CEMML archaeology crews attempted to re-locate this site in order to assess its current condition. Subsurface testing and ground surface reconnaissance failed to locate any additional artifacts anywhere in the vicinity of the AHRS card site location. The site is

located on a hill top off of a spur road to the north of Quarry Road. This hill top has been very heavily disturbed and currently has communications equipment located within the cleared area. This site may have been larger at one time, prior to the disturbance, or may have been an isolated find. The paucity of cultural material at site XBD-00103 indicates that this site does not contain additional information useful in understanding the prehistory of the area and is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

#### XBD-00104

Latitude:

Longitude: (NAD 27)

Determination: Not Eligible

This site consists of two grey chert flakes, one of which was a possible biface thinning flake. The flakes were found on the disturbed surface of an apparent material source (Holmes 1979: 21). UTM coordinates for this site are Zone 6, (WGS84).

#### *Findings*

This site was originally determined to be not eligible for the National Register on 7/25/84. CEMML archaeology crews attempted to re-locate this site in order to assess its current condition. Intensive subsurface testing and ground surface reconnaissance failed to locate any additional artifacts anywhere in the vicinity of the AHRS card site location. The site is located on a hill top northeast of the intersection of Quarry and Manchu Roads. This area appears to have been cleared by heavy machinery numerous times. This site may have been larger at one time, prior to the disturbance, or the two flakes may have been an isolated find. The paucity of cultural material at site XBD-00104 indicates that this site does not contain additional information useful in understanding the prehistory of the area and is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.



Figure 26. View of previously disturbed area tested in attempts to relocate XBD-00104



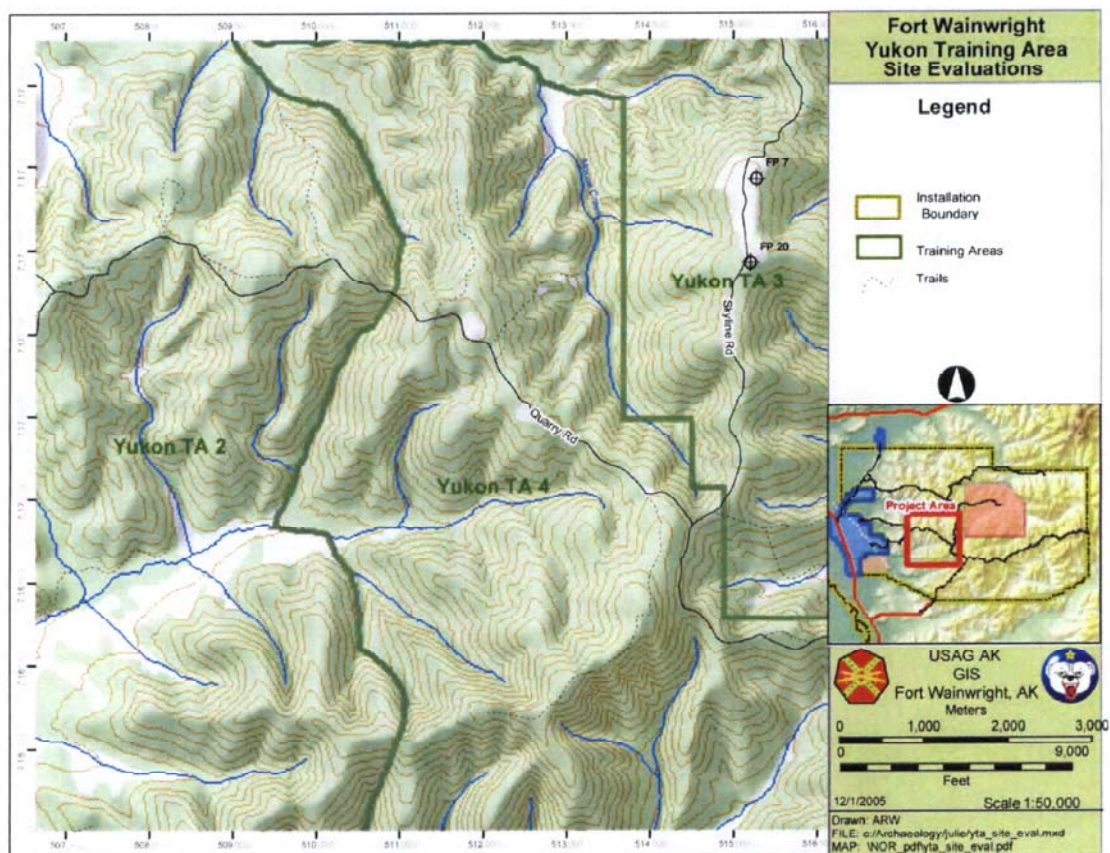


Figure 27. Vicinity of three re-evaluated sites in the Yukon Training Area